

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DR. DAVID SATCHER, THE
PEOPLE'S SURGEON GENERAL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, during this month long recognition of Black History Month it is a privilege for me to honor the second African-American to serve as this country's U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher. Tomorrow, Dr. Satcher will conclude his term. I rise in recognition of the leadership, compassion, dedication and vision that he has exhibited during his tenure as the 16th Surgeon General of the United States.

A native Alabaman and graduate of Morehouse College, Dr. Satcher received both his M.D. and Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University in 1970. After years of study, Dr. Satcher put his expertise into practice first as a faculty member at the UCLA School of Medicine and Public Health and later as Chairman of the Department of Family Medicine at the King-Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles, where he also directed the King-Drew Sickle Cell Research Center for 6 years. Returning to his alma mater in 1977, Dr. Satcher then went on to serve as professor and Chairman of the Department of Community Medicine and Family Practice at Morehouse School of Medicine before being elected President of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, a post he held from 1982 to 1993.

A learned, well-educated professional and a father of four, Dr. Satcher entered public service in 1993 as the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, posts he held until 1998 when he assumed his current position as Surgeon General. During the period of February 1998 to January 2001, Dr. Satcher served simultaneously in the positions of Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health.

As Surgeon General, Dr. Satcher advocated for and worked towards the promotion of healthy lifestyles, the improvement of the mental health system, and the elimination of disparities in health. Mr. Speaker, The National Center for Health Statistics reports that 60 percent of Americans more than 20 years of age are overweight or clinically obese and that weight-related conditions are the second leading cause of death in the United States, resulting in about 300,000 preventable deaths each year. What is so sad is that most of these deaths can and should be prevented. Realizing this, Dr. Satcher used his office to focus national attention on nutrition; he educated Americans about the value of maintaining a balanced diet with more vegetables and less sugar, and he stressed the necessity of regular exercise. Recognizing the fact that obesity can substantially increase a person's risk of illnesses such as breast, colon, ovarian, and prostate cancers, as well as type 2 diabetes and heart disease, I would like to personally

thank the Surgeon General on behalf of all Americans who have undoubtedly benefited from the preventative efforts he initiated and oversaw during his tenure.

Believing in the importance of mental as well as physical health, Dr. Satcher also worked to improve the mental health system to one of caring and support—not blame and stigmatization—and towards the developing of sound strategies for suicide and violence prevention. When Congress called for the development of a national strategy for suicide prevention, Dr. Satcher wholeheartedly embraced the challenge and responded with the dynamic leadership that has become his trademark. The National Strategy for Suicide Prevention was published in May 2001 and I am proud to say that we now have a unified, governing text to guide our national effort to prevent the loss of the nearly 30,000 lives claimed annually by suicide.

In addition to his efforts to promote healthier American lifestyles and to better the condition of the mental health system, Dr. Satcher also acted in an effort to eliminate socio-economic based disparities that remain prevalent in the U.S. healthcare system. He was not afraid to address controversial issues, like needle exchange, when he felt that a change in public policy would save lives. Using the best available science, and operating under the belief that the entire nation benefits from the protection of the health of the most vulnerable, Dr. Satcher and his team focused on six key issues, infant mortality, child and adult immunizations, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease, cancer screening and management, and diabetes, all of which have an especially large impact on minority populations.

Dr. Satcher's goal while in office was to be remembered as the Surgeon General who listened to the people and who always responded to their needs and concerns. Looking back on the last 4 years from the vantage point of this last day of Dr. Satcher's term, it is abundantly clear that he more than accomplished that goal, and that indeed he far exceeded it. Dr. Satcher not only lent an ear to those with a voice, but spoke up for those whose voice could not be heard. In all that he did as the 16th Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Satcher always acted as a true and honest servant of the people. And for this, for his dedicated service to American healthcare, his country commends him.

RECOGNIZING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the annual celebration of Catholic Schools' Week.

Each year, over 3,500 Catholic schools across our nation celebrate Catholic Schools'

Week to recognize the educational and social contributions of America's Catholic schools. This year's 28th Catholic Schools' Week theme, "Catholic Schools Where Faith and Knowledge Meet," exemplifies a major benefit of receiving a Catholic School education.

Catholic schools foster their students with a strong sense of faith, spirit, and Christian service. These are important values which we must promote, especially in light of the events of September 11th. Catholic schools teach a diverse student body from all faiths and races. In fact, 25.6 percent of Catholic school students are minorities. In some inner-city schools, a majority of students are non-Catholic.

It is important that we continue our strong support for Catholic Schools. Catholic education is internationally recognized for its academic excellence and emphasis on the development of the heart, mind and soul. We must promote the growth and continued success of Catholic schools by ensuring they have Internet access, abundant libraries and safe learning environments.

I have worked closely with the Catholic schools in my district, such as helping provide Internet services to the St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School in Houston, visiting Catholic school facilities, and reading to students.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the contributions made by our nation's Catholic Schools. I would like to especially recognize the dedicated teachers, principals, school administrators and parents in my Texas Congressional district for their hard work and devotion.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAHLON "BUTCH" WHITE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual from Pueblo, Colorado. Over the years, Mahlon "Butch" White has distinguished himself as a business executive, a community leader, and a vital participant in the funding of civic organizations and activities throughout the region. Butch's achievements are impressive and it is my honor to recognize several of those accomplishments today. Butch is a generous soul whose good deeds and generous acts certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress, and this nation.

Butch was the former owner and operator of Minnequa Bank in Pueblo, a successful business operation he has run since his late twenties. He has carried on a long line of tradition in the banking industry, dating back to his great-grandfather, Mahlon, of whom he owes his namesake. As such, the White family has served the Pueblo community throughout the last century with professionalism and high standards and continues to serve as a model

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